

RED PROPAGANDA HELD 'FABULOUS'

Congressman Says Soviet
Bloc's Job Outdoes West's
in Asia and Mideast

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25

The head of a Congressional survey team reported today that the Soviet bloc was doing "a very fabulous propaganda job" in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

"All over the world we need to do a bigger job," Representative Hale Boggs, Democrat of Louisiana, declared. He met with reporters on his return from a month-long tour of the area as chairman of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Foreign Trade Policy.

Mr. Boggs conferred with Government officials of Burma, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Greece. He also visited Tokyo and Rome.

Throughout the trip, he said, he was able to tune in to the Moscow radio on his portable transistor radio, but he never could get the Voice of America.

He mentioned the experience as one of several that had led him to conclude that Communist propagandists were outdoing the West. As further evidence, he reported the widespread distribution of at least eight different "slick" propaganda

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Representative Hale Boggs

magazines throughout the area by the Soviet Union, Communist China and their satellites.

The theme of the propaganda, he said, was that the Communist system promised the best opportunity for providing the necessities of life for inhabitants of the underdeveloped countries.

He said he had found "an almost savage desire" among people of such lands for "the comforts that they know are available in the world."

Mr. Boggs called for more effective counter-propaganda by the United States Information Agency. He suggested that Congress authorize the agency's use of idle foreign aid counterpart funds. He said about \$130,000,000 in such local currency, earmarked for the United States Government, was available in India alone.

He maintained, however, that private United States investment and trade in those countries were even more important in the economic "cold war."

"The greatest weapon we have," he asserted, "is free enterprise."

Mr. Boggs was accompanied on the survey trip by Representative Thaddeus M. Machrowicz, Democrat of Michigan, and Leo H. Irwin, chief counsel of the Ways and Means Committee.

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